

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-13 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Please add claims 14-26 as follows:

--14. (New) A method of forming instructions for execution in a processing system, said method comprising:

providing an opcode portion determining at least one instruction to be performed by the processing system; and

providing a first parameter byte including a first set of data value bits, and a first expansion bit indicative of whether the processing system expands the first set of data value bits or reads any additional parameter bytes including additional sets of data value bits.--

--15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said first byte further has a sign bit indicative of whether the first set of data value bits represents a positive number or a negative number.--

--16. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising
providing a second parameter byte including a second set of data value bits, and a second expansion bit indicative of whether the processing system expands the second set of data value bits or reads any additional parameter bytes including additional sets of data value bits.--

--17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said first byte further has a sign bit indicative of whether the first set of data value bits and the second set of data value bits collectively represent a positive number or a negative number.--

--18. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising
providing a third parameter byte including a third set of data value bits,
and a third expansion bit indicative of whether the processing system expands the third set of data value bits or reads any additional parameter bytes including additional sets of data value bits.--

--19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said first byte further has a sign bit indicative of whether the first set of data value bits, the second set of data value bits and the third set of data value bits collectively represent a positive number or a negative number.--

--20. (New) A method of forming instructions for execution in a processing system, said method comprising:
providing an opcode portion determining at least one instruction to be performed by the processing system; and
providing a parameter portion including a plurality of data value bits, and a first indicator representative of a number of the plurality of data value bits.--

--21. (New) A method of forming instructions for execution in a processing system, said method comprising:
providing an opcode portion determining at least one instruction to be performed by the processing system; and
providing a parameter portion including a plurality of data value bits, and a first indicator representative a number of bytes in the parameter portion.--

--22. (New) The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein the parameter portions further includes a second indicator representative of whether to expand the plurality of data value bits.--

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--23. (New) The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein the parameter portions further includes a second indicator representative of whether the plurality of data value bits represent a positive number or a negative number.—

--24. (New) The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein the opcode portion defines a number of parameters in the parameter portion.--

--25. (New) The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein the opcode portion defines an uncompressed length of the plurality of data value bits.--

--26. (New) The method of claim 20 or 21,
wherein the parameter portion includes a plurality of parameter bytes; and
wherein the opcode portion determines an order of arrangement of the
plurality of parameter bytes.--
